In the claims:

For the Examiner's convenience, all pending claims are presented below with changes shown.

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

a first node determining one or more communication protocols via which a second node is capable of communicating with the first node based upon one or more parameters received from the second node during an initialization of communication between the first node and the second node, the one or more parameters specifying the one or more communication protocols;

selecting first drivers to implement an Ethernet protocol if the one or more parameters specify the first communication protocol;

selecting second drivers to implement an Asynchronous Transfer Mode protocol if the one or more parameters specifies the second protocol; and

in response to the selecting, invoking a plug and play (PnP) protocol manager to initiate loading of the one or more first or second drivers into memory.

2-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein: the first node comprises at least one modem driver; and the determining is performed by the at least one modem driver.

7.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein:

the initialization of the communication comprises a negotiation between the first node

and the second node; and in response to a request from the first node, the second node

transmits during the negotiation the one or more parameters to the first node.

8.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a first node, including:

a memory device to store first drivers and second drivers; and

a processor to determine one or more communication protocols via which a

second node is capable of communicating with the first node based upon one or more

parameters received from the second node during an initialization of communication

between the first node and the second node, the one or more parameters specifying

the one or more-communication protocols, to select the first drivers to implement an

Ethernet protocol if the one or more parameters specifies the first communication

protocol and to select the second drivers to implement an Asynchronous Transfer

Mode protocol if the one or more parameters specifies the second protocol and to

invoke a plug and play (PnP) protocol manager to initiate loading of the one or more

first or second drivers into memory.

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9-12.   (Cancelled)

13.   (Previously Presented)   The apparatus of claim 8, wherein:

the processor is capable of executing at least one modem driver; and

execution of the at least one modem driver by the processor results in the processor

being capable of determining the one or more-communication protocols.

14.   (Previously Presented)   The apparatus of claim 8, wherein:

the initialization of the communication comprises a negotiation between the first node

and the second node; and in response at least in part to a request from the first node, the

second node transmits during the negotiation the one or more parameters to the first node.

15.   (Currently Amended) An article comprising: a computer-readable medium having

stored thereon instructions that when executed by a computer result in the following:

at a first node determining one or more communication protocols via which a second

node is capable of communicating with the first node based upon one or more parameters

received from the second node during an initialization of communication between the first

node and the second node, the one or more parameters specifying the one or more

communication protocols;

the processor selecting first drivers to implement an Ethernet protocol if the one or

more parameters specify the first communication protocol;

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the processor selecting second drivers to implement an Asynchronous Transfer Mode

protocol if the one or more parameters specifies the second protocol; and

in response to the selecting, invoking a plug and play (PnP) protocol manager to initiate

loading of the ~~one or more~~ first or second drivers into memory.

16-19. (Cancelled)

20.   (Previously Presented)   The article of claim 15, wherein:

the first node comprises at least one modem driver; and

the determining of the at least one communication protocol is performed by the at

least one modem driver.

21.   (Previously Presented)   The article of claim 15, wherein:

the initialization of the communication comprises a negotiation between the first node

and the second node; and in response to a request from the first node, the second node

transmits during the negotiation the one or more parameters to the first node.

22. (Previously Presented) A system comprising:

a first node comprising:

circuitry that includes a circuit card; and

a circuit board that includes a circuit card slot that is capable of coupling the

circuit card to the circuit board; and

a second node;

the circuitry being capable of determining one or more communication protocols via

which the second node is capable of communicating with the first node based upon one or

more parameters received by the circuit card from the second node during an initialization of

communication between the first node and the second node, one or more parameters

specifying the one or more communication protocols, to select first drivers to implement an

Ethernet protocol if the one or more parameters specifies the first communication protocol

and to select second drivers to implement an Asynchronous Transfer Mode protocol if the

one or more parameters specifies the second protocol.

23. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein:

the circuit board comprises a bus and a host processor coupled to the bus; and when

the circuit card is coupled to the slot, the circuitry is coupled to the bus.

24. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein:

the circuit card comprises a digital subscriber line (DSL) modem.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein:

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a central office (CO) comprises the second node; and customer premises equipment

(CPE) comprises the modem.

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